Rivers

Patapsco River

The Patapsco River was first explored by Captain John Smith in the spring of 1608 and was originally named Bolus Flu. The name was eventually changed to an Indian derivative, Patapsco. The river system is approximately fifty two miles in length and covers an estimated 540 square miles of watershed drainage area. There are two distinct components of the riversystem: the tidewater basin, otherwise known as the harbor basin, and the Main Branch. The harbor basin has water depths of up to fifty feet while the Main Branch is both shallow in depth and narrow in width. At the point where the Patapsco River meets the Chesapeake Bay, the river reaches its greatest width of approximately four miles.

The Patapsco River's South Branch starts at a small pond, "Parr's Spring", located on the border between Howard County and Carroll County. The North Branch begins at the Liberty Reservoir Dam in Carroll County. The South Branch and the North Branch join up at a point located downstream from Marriottsville, near the McKeldin Recreation Area in Patapsco Valley State Park. The South Branch is approximately 19 miles long, but the North Branch is only 4 miles in length. The tidewater limit of the Patapsco extends only a few miles upstream from the Middle Branch at the harbor basin but is officially recognized as being located at the Thomas Railroad Viaduct located in Patapsco Valley State Park.

Valued as an important provider of energy for commerce in the 19th century, the Patapsco today is appreciated for its beauty and recreational offerings which include a variety of fishing opportunities

Courtesy of Patapsco Valley State Park and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Did You Know? If you find a sick, injured or orphaned bird or small mammal, you may call "All Creatures Great & Small" at 410 740-5096 in Columbia. (8 AM to 7 PM, seven days a week)

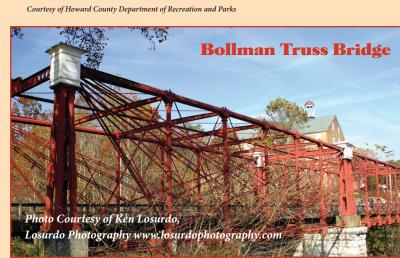
Little Patuxent River

Captain John Smith discovered the Little Patuxent River. Smith named the river after a large tribe of Indians living along its banks in southern Maryland, who called themselves the Patuxents. The Little Patuxent is the largest tributary of the Patuxent River, and is one of three main river drainages from central Maryland to the Chesapeake Bay. The Patuxent is the longest river to be located entirely within the state of Maryland. It borders six counties, including Howard County, where it forms the southwestern border with Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

The Little Patuxent River, the Middle Patuxent River and the Western Branch are the three largest tributaries of the Patuxent River. The Middle Patuxent flows into the Little Patuxent just upstream from the historic Savage Mill. The Little Patuxent then joins the Patuxent just northeast of Bowie, Maryland. The Western Branch joins the Patuxent at Upper Marlboro, the county seat of Prince George's County.

The Little Patuxent River begins in Howard County at Alpha Ridge. It flows approximately 25 miles through Howard County, and another 20 miles through Anne Arundel County before joining the Patuxent River. The Little Patuxent's watershed covers 103 square miles, including 52 square miles in Howard County. It flows through the town of Columbia, and collects outfall water from Centennial Lake, Wilde Lake, Lake Kittamaqundi and Lake Elkhorn.

Although the Little Patuxent River was valued as an important provider of energy for commerce in the 19th century, now it is valued for its scenic and recreational opportunities, as well as for providing a habitat for fish and wildlife.



Savage Park, Savage Mill Trail Wildlife Driving Tour Stop Number 7

1991, and it brought back many fond memories for her.

Bollman Truss Bridge

Courtesy of Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks

Heritage

Marlow House

Schooley Mill Park

Wildlife Driving Tour Stop Number 4

Is the sole surviving bridge of its type in the world. It was invented by a Baltimore engineer, Wendell Bollman (1814-1884) and was the first all- iron bridge to be used extensively by the railroads. This bridge was originally built in 1852 and used at an unknown location in Maryland. Then it was moved to Savage in 1888, to serve the Savage Mills, which were shipping large quantities of manufactured cotton duck material that was used for sails for clipper ships as well as for the covers of covered wagons. The bridge was named a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark in 1996 by the American Society of Engineers. In September 2000 the bridge was dedicated as a National

the house after the Department of Recreation and Parks restored it in

Rockburn Branch Park Wildlife Driving Tour Stop Number 11

Pfeiffer's Corner School House

Originally constructed about 1883; the Pfeiffer's Corner Schoolhouse is one of very few remaining one-room schools in Howard County. Restoration structure is now complete in its new location within Rockburn Branch Park. Children were educated within its walls for over 50 years until it was converted into a residence in the 1940's. It was almost demolished when new homes were built on the property in the 1980's, but was saved through the efforts of local schoolchildren. They raised funds to have it moved in 1988 to county-owned parkland along route 108 near Clarksville, where it stood for several years until a permanent location could be found. In 2003, it was moved to Rockburn Branch Park where it will illustrate the changes a 100-year time span have brought to our schools, serve as an historic exhibit in conjunction with the adjacent Clover Hill restoration, and be used for demonstration classes, interpretive tours and small meetings.

The Howard County Conservancy Wildlife Driving Tour Stop Number 16

In 1692, Thomas Browne, a Patuxent Ranger, was commissioned to survey the headwaters of the Patuxent and to keep watch on the Indians in Woodstock. He received Ranter's Ridge as a land grant This farm, which became known as Mt. Pleasant, remained in the Brown family for eight generations. Approximately 50 mature hardwoods, gardens, farm, fields, and streams, frame the historic house. Nine historic outbuildings - the carriage house, blacksmith shop, bank barn, wagon shed, corn crib, smokehouse, two hen houses, and more – surround the house as well.

Dating from the 1700's, this barn was located on an 85-acre property in Ellicott City that was slated for development. Through the efforts of a number of partners and donors, the barn has been relocated to Mount Pleasant and is now being incorporated into the conservancy's educational programs, and will serve as a monument to the agricultural history of Maryland and the incredible craftsmanship of its builder.

Patapsco Valley State Park Wildlife Driving Tour Stop Number 17

Bloede's Dam

Is believed to be the world's first submerged electrical generating plant that was housed under water inside the shell of a dam. Victor G. Bloede, the same chemist and entrepreneur who created the Water Works at Avalon, hired electrical engineer Otto Wonder to oversee the development of this unique hydroelectric dam that is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. To access: continue on the Park Road, pass the Orange Grove Shelter, and go up river one mile to

The Swinging Bridge

Spans the Patapsco at Orange Grove, 1.6 miles northwest of Avalon following the Park Road in Howard County beyond shelters 104 and 105. Prior suspension foot bridges at this location enabled residents of the Orange Grove mill town to cross the river to Baltimore County to work in the five stories high Orange Grove Flower Mill of the C.A. Gambrill Manufacturing Company. This mill burned May 1, 1905. Cross the bridge to discover ruins of this large mill site that extended from the railroad tracks to the Swinging Bridge abutment. Orange Grove flour was sold in white bags whose tops were string tied and whose labels proclaimed "Patapsco Superlative Flour." Courtesy of Patapsco Valley State Park and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources





American Gold

Distances to Howard County

FOR MORE ECOTOURISM INFORMATION

1-800-288-8747

410-313-4700

Howard County Tourism, Inc.

Howard County Department

www.visithowardcounty.com

of Recreation & Parks

www.howardcountymd.gov/rap

Annapolis, MD ...36 miles

ON HOWARD COUNTY:

Baltimore, MD ...10 miles Philadelphia, PA ...84 miles Frederick, MD ...34 miles Richmond, VA ...136 miles Washington, DC ...24 miles New York City, NY ... 208 miles

Species Checklist How many can you find?



This guide has been designed to assist in finding local avian and

wildlife hotspots while enhancing area wildlife and natural habitat

awareness. Each location on the tour features specific species that

are likely to be spotted at that location. The checklists on local bird,

included in this guide are intended to assist in tracking species

sightings. Additionally, several of the locations offer historical

This tour can easily be driven all in one day, a couple of days, split up

over four seasons, or used in whichever matter works best for the view-

er. Recreational activities such as picnicking, hiking, biking, canoeing,

kayaking, fishing, horseback riding and more are available throughout

Charming destinations such as Historic Savage Mill, Historic Ellicott

City and Down Town Columbia are conveniently located and offer

amenities such as shopping, dining, performing arts, museums and

For a complete guide on what to see and do in

Howard County please visit www.visithowardcounty.com

or call the Howard County Tourism Council at:

1-800-288-8747

Keep it Clean, Go Green - Tips on Caring for the Environment

Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites during hikes

Leave rocks, plants and other natural objects as you find them Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species in parks

Use re-usable picnic supplies verses disposable

Repackage food to minimize waste

butterfly, dragonfly & damselfly, frog & toad and turtle species

and natural interpretational exhibits and programs.

USING THIS GUIDE

the area.

overnight accommodations.

Dragonflies & **Damselflies**

→ Slender Spreadwing Dancer Violet Dancer ■ Powdered Dancer ■ Blue-tipped Dancer Dusky Dancer □ Azure Bluet

Spreadwing

Skimming Bluet Orange Bluet Citrine Forktail Lilypad Forktail Fragile Forktail Eastern Forktail ■ Eastern **Swamp Darner Lancet Clubtail** Autumn Ashy Clubtail ☐ American Southern

Stream Bluet ☐ Twelve-spotted Painted Skimmer ☐ Great Blue Blue Dasher Wandering Glider □ Spot-winged Glider Amberwing Meadowhawk Meadowhawk Emerald ☐ Common

Calico Pennant Halloween Pennant Banded Pennant

Common Pondhawk

■ Spangled Skimmer

☐ Common Whitetail

Slaty Skimmer

For a complete list of species phinology; send a self addressed, stamped envelope to: Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks

National Resources Division Wildlife Brochure Phinology Request 7120 Oakland Mills Road Columbia, Maryland 21046

Howard County



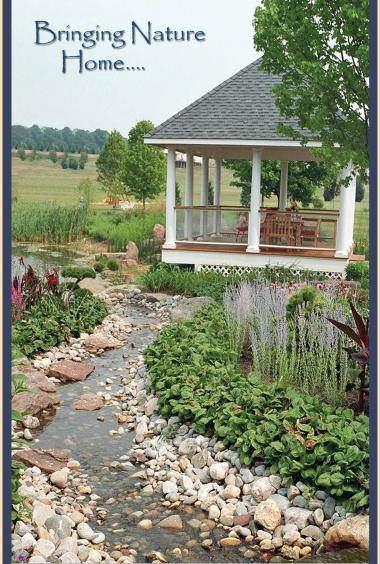


GROWTH ADVENTURES

features at any of the sites indicated in this publication. For bookings or more information contact: nedtillman@growthadventures.org



WELCOME to Howard County,







Howard County Conservancy www.hcconservancy.org

Howard Transit

www.howardtransit.com 1-800-270-9553



Patapsco Valley State Park Maryland **Department of Natural Resources** www.dnr.maryland.gov 410-461-5005



Washington Area Buttterfly Club http://users.sitestar.net/butterfly/



Washington Suburban

www.wsscwater.com

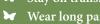
Whether you want relaxation, action and adventure, or a bit of both, you'll find a wealth of activities await you in Howard County. Listed in this guide are amenities that each location has to offer, such as rest rooms, picnic areas and paved trails. Recreational activities available throughout the county are also listed and include hiking, biking, canoeing, kayaking, fishing, horseback riding and more. Use the contact information provided in this guide for more specific information

In addition to enjoying the local wildlife and many amenities area parks have to offer, be sure to explore all of Howard County. Accom-County Tourism Council at 1-800-288-8747.

> pool waste water pollution for you free brochure titled, "Your Swimming Pool and the Environment What Every Pool Owner Should Know"

Reprinted from Howard Magazine, based on information provided by the Howard County Conservancy

HELPFUL HINTS for viewing wildlife



Wear long pants, sunscreen and a hat.

▶ Bring water and snacks for longer hikes.

➤ Binoculars and a magnifying glass get you closer. **▶** Bring a camera or journal to record memories.

Do not try to touch, feed or corner wildlife.

like ticks and other insects.

Stay on trails.

Wear mosquito repellant, especially for early morning or

Leave only footprints. After your hike, check your clothing for "hitchhikers"

Wash your hands.

Dress for weather and other conditions, e.g., steep or muddy trails. cation during a suggested peak viewing season. Additionally, several 410-740-7300 Business 10632 Little Patuxent Parkway locations also offer historical and natural interpretational exhibits Columbia MD 21061 and programs. **➤** Know the season and the look of poison ivy to avoid it. www.bizmonthly.com Move calmly and quietly to disturb wildlife as little as possible. © Copyright 2007

and woodlands Howard County Tourism, Inc. **▶** Plant native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers near streams to act as buffers 1-800-288-8747 or 410-313-1900 • Use fertilizer sparingly or not at all 8267 Main Street, side entrance Car pool or take public transportation: www.howardtransit.com Ellicott City, MD 21043 Recycle: Howard County Curbside Recycling, www.howardcountymd.gov www.VisitHowardCounty.com **▶** Participate in stream clean ups and work days: 410-313-4700 www.dnr.state.md.us 7120 Oakland Mills Rd, Columbia MD 21046 • Howard County Conservancy: www.hcconservancy.org

www.howardcountymd.gov/rap, www.patapscoheritagegreenway.org, Support "Green" destinations

• Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks: www.howardcountymd.govlrap Support farms by visiting, buying local produce or making contributions:

• Local Farms, 410-313-6500 • Farmers Markets, http://www.hceda.org/agriculture Information compiled by Lori Paddy

Historic Savage Mill

Patuxent Publishing Company

Washington Area Butterfly Club

Columbia Association

SPECIAL THANKS:

Commuter Solutions – Howard County

Frogwatch USA Howard County Bird Club Howard County Conservancy **Howard County Government** Howard Transit Growth Adventures The Business Monthly Town Creek Landscaping & Construction Patapsco Valley State Park with Department of Natural Resources

Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission **CREATED BY:**

Howard County Tourism Council, Inc. Howard County Dept. of Recreation & Parks Natural Resources Division The Business Monthly

Sue Muller Amanda Hof **DESIGN:**

WRITTEN BY:

Tiffany Green Dawn Poholsky

PHOTOS: Sue Muller

PUBLISHED BY:

www.howardcountymd.gov/rap

Familiar Bluet

Historic Landmark by the National Park Service. It was restored by the Department of Recreation and Parks and

is now used as a pedestrian bridge connecting the Savage Historic Mill with the Mill Trail along the Little Patuxent River. Courtesy of Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks

Did vou know ou can report hazardous material Maryland Department of the Environment at 1 866-633-4686.

Toads

Box Turtle

Turtles

Built prior to the Civil War and is an example of a typical farmhouse that was once commonly found in the rural areas of Howard County. It is named after James Marlow, a local farmer who operated the farm in the late nineteenth century and built the addition for his growing family. He donated an acre of his property to the Howard County School Commission for the building of a schoolhouse. Later, the teacher lived in the Marlow House. Her daughter, Elaine Lynn of Elkridge, recalled growing up in the house in the 1920's when the basement was used to store potatoes that her father grew on the farm. She visited

Courtesy of Howard County Department of Recreation and Parks

Mt. Pleasant and built a log cabin on a pleasant knoll overlooking two streams.

Group Tours - Engage a naturalist to guide your group to key

onveniently located between Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Howard County, Maryland, is full of forests, meadows, rivers, lakes, ponds and wetlands that are home to hundreds of exciting wildlife species. Whether you call Howard County home or are a much welcomed visitor, the Howard County Wildlife Driving Tour was developed by the Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks, the Howard County Tourism Council and many

other partnering organizations and agencies — all with

the same goal of bringing you closer to Howard County's

WHERE TO START

Maryland

Get ready to discover local wildlife in its diverse Howard County habitats. Enjoy your journey all in one day or over a range of days, weeks or even all four seasons as each season offers peak viewing times. Begin or end wherever you like; it is not necessary to follow the tour in any specific order. This map will navigate you to:

The Howard County Department of Recreation &

Howard County Conservancy's two hundred and

The Columbia Association's ninety miles of path

Patapsco Valley State Park's 14,000 acres of forest The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission's (WSSC) Brighton Dam waterfowl viewing area

thirty-two acres of rolling hills

ways and lovely lakes

Park's award winning, mixed use facilities

All are among the many eco-tourism attractions that await in Howard County and are home to hundreds of wildlife species including birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects and mammals. Each point on the tour highlights specific species that are likely to be spotted at that lo-

NATURE'S SECRET PLACES WAIT TO BE DISCOVERED

ral environment. Surrounded by many varieties of flora and fauna, it may seem quiet — but it isn't really. Leaves rustle in the autumn wind, tree limbs creak in the pristine quiet of winter, streams rush after a heavy spring rain and fish and wildlife break the surface of ponds on a still summer afternoon. No matter the season, be prepared to discover the joys of nature in

Howard County, Maryland. The following is but a sampling of the

wide variety of wildlife you can expect to see throughout the four

Human sounds are muffled in the depths of Howard County's natu-

Fall is not only peak viewing time for a brilliant display of foliage, it is also an ideal time for spotting butterfly and moth species at Poplar Springs Park, various duck species at Centennial Park and several hawk species at Meadowbrook Park. In the quiet of winter, you may notice a bald eagle soaring in the sky or perched high in the treetops at Brighton Dam. A vibrant spring season offers up peak viewing opportunities for woodland birds at Middle Patuxent Environmental Area, shorebirds at Western Regional Park and chorusing frogs at Font Hill Park and along Patuxent Branch Trail. Summertime is ideal to watch for butterflies, damselflies and dragonflies along the Savage Mill Trail or at Lake Elkhorn, turtles at Warfield Pond Park and cavity nesting birds at Schooley Mill Park. Foxes, coyotes, deer and squirrels are seen year round at Rockburn Branch Park, Howard County Conservancy and Patapsco Valley State Park.

SO MUCH, SO CLOSE

or inquiries on each location.

pany your tour with a scrumptious meal from a full range of dining choices; shopping at historic districts, modern plazas and malls; and a show or concert at one of the county's diverse venues. Experience the local heritage at an annual festival; pick your own produce at an area farm; make animal friends at a petting zoo; discover local history at one of the many museums; play a round of golf; or simply relax at a local spa. Overnight accommodations are ample, ranging from full-service hotels to cozy bed & breakfasts. There's something for everyone to see and do in Howard County. For your complete guide to Howard County, please visit www.visithowardcounty.com or call the Howard

Don't pick flowers or berries.

Columbia Association www.columbiaassociation.com 410-715-3000 Frogwatch USA www.nwf.org/frogwatchUSA/ **Howard County Bird Club** www.howardbirds.org

loward Transit

301-774-9124